

REMARKS

Applicant submits this paper in response to the Final Office Action dated January 13, 2010, in support of the accompanying Request for Continued Examination.

By way of this paper, claims 1-3, 5-11, and 13-15 remain pending, of which claims 1-3, 6, 11, and 13-15 are currently amended. Support for the amendments to the independent claims 1-3 and 11 can be found in paragraphs [0012], [0013], [0031], [0009], and [0039]-[0042]. Support for the amendments to dependent claim 6 can be found in paragraphs [0027] and [0032]. The remaining amendments to the claim are merely formal in nature. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims and the following remarks, Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the Office to acknowledge the same.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §102 & 103

Claims 2 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as being assertedly anticipated by Erich (WO 03/024861, with US 2004/0099379 used as a translation). Claims 1-3, 10, and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as being assertedly obvious over Bright et al. (EP 1122173) in view of Erich, Hasiguchi et al. (US 2002/0161467), and optionally Krug et al. (US 5,534,890).

Independent claim 1 as amended now recites a device having a conveyance device for conveying containers, to which at least one control unit of a corresponding exchangeable labeling unit may be connected via one of multiple plug receptacles that are provided on the conveyance device, where each of the plug receptacles having assigned thereto a preset address information, wherein the address information is an IP-address, wherein the address information assigned to a first one of the plug receptacles differs from the address information assigned to a second one of the plug receptacles, and where at least identification data of the labeling unit can be transmitted to the conveyance device, with the identification data being identity information of the control unit of the labeling unit, such as an electronic nameplate of the labeling unit, the electronic nameplate including the type of machine, the commission number or the software version number of the labeling unit, and the

identification data distinguishing the labeling unit from at least one other labeling unit. Similarly, independent claims 2, 3 and 11 have been amended to include where the address information is an IP-address, where the address information assigned to a first one of the plug receptacles differs from the address information assigned to a second one of the plug receptacles, and where the identification data is identity information of the control unit of the labeling unit, such as an electronic nameplate of the labeling unit, the electronic nameplate including the type of machine, the commission number or the software version number of the labeling unit, and the identification data distinguishing the labeling unit from at least one other labeling unit.

Dependent claim 6 has been amended to include that connecting lines are provided which connect a control unit of the conveyance device and the control unit of a labeling unit and wherein one connecting line is provided for transmitting address information and the other connecting line is provided at least for transmitting the identification data.

Thus, independent claim 1 has been amended by specifying the address information to be an IP-address, and that the address information assigned to a first one of the plug receptacles differs from the address information assigned to a second one of the plug receptacles. Additionally, the identification data has been specified to be identify information of the control unit of the labeling unit, such as an electronic nameplate of the labeling unit, the electronic nameplate including the type of machine, the commission number or the software version number of the labeling unit. Claims 2, 3, and 11 have been amended analogously. Further, claim 2 has been amended to express that the address information is received by the control unit of the labeling unit. Additionally, claim 6 has been amended such that the term “transmission devices” has been replaced by “connecting lines”, which connect a control unit of the conveyance device and the control unit of a labeling unit.

A review of the cited reference reflects that none of Erich, Bright et al., Hasiguchi et al., or Krug et al., nor any other reference of record discloses or suggests each and every limitation in amended independent claims 1-3 and 11. By the inclusion of such wording in amended claim 1, namely specification that the address information is an IP-address, and that the address information assigned to a first one of the plug receptacles differs

from the address information assigned to a second one of the plug receptacles, renders impossible the interpretation that the address information assigned to each plug receptacle is the IP-address of the transmission device. Further, in amended claim 6, by deleting "transmission devices" and substituting "connecting lines," the interpretation that the transmission device is a router is rendered impossible. Further, the Examiner's comment (page 9 of the Office Action) that the transmission of the address information intrinsically includes various connections, it is noted that this cannot be considered technically correct, since Ethernet connections, for instance, usually employ simple cables.

Accordingly, the various references fail to disclose or suggest each and every limitation recited in amended claims 1-3, and 11.

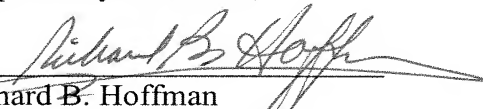
In light of the forgoing, Applicant kindly requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding anticipation and obviousness rejections.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that each of the outstanding rejections, objections, and/or other concerns have either been accommodated, traversed, or rendered moot. Therefore, the application is considered in condition for allowance. Should there be any outstanding issues that the Office believes may be remedied via telephone conference, please contact the undersigned at (312) 474-6300.

Dated: *April 13, 2010*

Respectfully submitted,

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